



United States Attorney District of New Jersey

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NEWARK, NEW JERSEY FIRE DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION

TRENTON, N.J. – A supervisor with the Newark Fire Department admitted today that he evaded income taxes by maintaining a fraudulent IRS W-4 form with the city and failing to file an individual tax return, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Michael White, 41, of West Orange, N.J., pleaded guilty to evading the assessment and payment of income tax by maintaining a fraudulent IRS W-4 form with his employer and failing to file a U.S. individual income tax return with the IRS. White entered his guilty plea before United States District Judge Mary L. Cooper in Trenton federal court.

According to the Information to which White pleaded guilty, other documents filed in this case, and statements made in court:

White, a 16-year veteran of the City of Newark Fire Department, filed a W-4 with his employer, the City of Newark, in 2000 – falsely claiming 99 exemptions from federal income tax withholding. White admitted that he filed the fraudulent form so that no federal income tax would be withheld from his City of Newark paycheck and that he maintained the form on file with the city from July 2000 to November 2006.

In 2004, 2005, and 2006, White received wages from the City of Newark in the amount of approximately \$47,486, \$53,986, and \$63,449, respectively, but failed to pay any federal income tax for those calendar years.

In November 2006, the City of Newark was directed by the IRS to nullify White's false claim of 99 exemptions and to begin withholding from his paycheck. In June 2007, White filed a second fraudulent W-4 with the City of Newark which falsely claimed the exemptions. In 2007 and 2008, White received wages from the City of Newark in the amount of approximately \$80,555 and \$66,761, respectively, and failed to pay any federal income tax for those calendar years.

The count to which White pleaded guilty carries a maximum potential penalty of five years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. Sentencing is scheduled for March 9, 2011.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited special agents of IRS – Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff, with the investigation leading to today's guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandra L. Moser of the United States Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

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Defense counsel: Joseph Rotella, Esq., Newark